



Partly cloudy, temps in the low 70s

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Senior housing takes step forward in Beverly Hills

■ City and developer work toward agreement

BY JOEY WALDINGER

The Beverly Hills City Council advanced efforts to build the city's second senior affordable housing development after approving an agreement on Sept. 12 to negotiate the terms of a proposed six-story, 252-unit building at 9268-9298 W.

Third St.

Under the exclusive negotiation agreement with the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, a nonprofit founded in 1986 with 22 affordable and low-income apartment complexes throughout greater Los Angeles,

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photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

City officials and developers have one year to devise terms for the construction of a new senior affordable housing building on West Third Street.

Opponents raise questions about TV City project

■ Planning department still working on official specific plan for site

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A group opposing a proposed project to expand facilities at Television City is calling attention to a draft document submitted by the property owner in 2021 to the Los Angeles Department of City Planning that outlines potential uses at the site at Beverly Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue

Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development, a grassroots group that formed last year in opposition to the project, said the document was not previously disclosed and it contains information that is important for public consideration of the project. The document, a draft specific plan, was obtained by Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development in August after a public records request was filed.

Hackman Capital Partners, which owns Television City, is planning to build nearly 1.875 million square feet of new studio production space to enable it to



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

The owner of Television City plans to expand studio facilities on the property near Beverly Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue.

meet the demands of modern productions.

The draft specific plan submitted by Hackman Capital Partners outlines potential uses including restaurant and retail spaces, and a helipad. The draft plan also requests liquor licenses. Shelley

Wagers and Danielle Peters, co-chairs of Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development, called into question provisions in the draft specific plan that they said would preclude the public from appealing the project.

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Residents call out city for not supporting clinic

■ Public commenters demand investigation

BY JOEY WALDINGER

After a lawsuit last month accused Beverly Hills officials of colluding with anti-abortion activists and a real estate company to block the opening of a reproductive health care clinic on Wilshire Boulevard, residents are calling on their leaders to take a stronger stance in support of reproductive

rights.

In a series of impassioned public comments during the Sept. 12 City Council meeting, residents voiced their disappointment with leaders for not backing up their rhetoric with action, excoriated the city for threatening women's rights and health care, and called for a full investigation into the claims of collusion.

"Who gets to make the decisions as to what legal business is permitted to open in the city? As of now, it appears extremist groups do," resi-

dent Heather Fels said. "Where is the transparency? I'm ashamed by what appears to be government corruption, and I would love the opportunity to better understand what happened."

Amanda Smith, who lived in Beverly Hills for 34 years, said she is concerned that since 2020, the city has earned an increasingly conservative reputation.

"It is long past time for the city to actually do something more than just send a resolution to the Supreme Court," Smith said. "Turning the City Hall pink was a start. I'm now asking you to back up your words with actions, not in shadow, but in full public view, and lead our country forward as the city has done so many times before."

The council members did not address the statements, as is protocol for comments made on non-agenda items.

On Aug. 14, attorneys for DuPont Clinic, a reproductive health facility in Washington, D.C., filed a lawsuit claiming that commercial real estate company Douglas Emmett colluded with Beverly Hills officials to delay the opening and ultimately rescind the lease for a proposed clinic at 8920

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New evidence presented in discrimination lawsuit

■ Beverly Hills denies allegations of racial profiling by BHPD

BY JOEY WALDINGER

During a Sept. 11 press conference in front of Beverly Hills City Hall, Shepherd York, one of 1,086 plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit accusing the city of Beverly Hills of racial discrimination, said that he no longer feels safe in the city after an altercation with the Beverly Hills Police Department.

"After that I was traumatized. I no longer work in Beverly Hills," York said. "I'm in a totally different career path, I don't want to go through the experience [again]."

In an interview, attorney Bradley C. Gage, who is leading the lawsuit alongside attorney Ben Crump, said his legal team called the press conference to present new evidence bolstering claims that the BHPD racially profiled Black individuals over a two-year period.



photo courtesy of Bradley C. Gage

Attorney Bradley C. Gage, left, Shepherd York, Lakisha White and attorney Ben Crump presented new evidence that they claim shows the BHPD racially profiled Black people.


Gage recounted an August court filing showing that of the 1,088 Black people arrested by the BHPD between August 2019 and August 2021, only two were convicted. Over that two year

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photo by Joey Waldinger


Critics said Beverly Hills officials should have done more to support the opening of a new reproductive health care clinic at 8920 Wilshire Blvd.




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Lawsuit against city claims unjust arrests

From page 1

period, 35% of the people arrested in the city were Black, in a city where 1.5% of residents are Black, Gage said.

"The only logical explanation for that is that the police department was targeting Black Americans," he added.

In a statement, city officials denied the allegations and said Gage mischaracterized the statistics.

"The city of Beverly Hills is an international destination that always welcomes visitors from across the country and around the world. The role of the Beverly Hills Police Department is to enforce the law, regardless of race," the statement read. "The 1,088 arrests referenced includes people cited and released, not just custodial arrests. The city denies and will continue to strongly defend itself against these allegations."

City officials declined requests for additional comment, citing the ongoing litigation, and Gage

defended his characterization of the statistics.

"Once you're arrested, the next thing is you end up in court. And before going to court you might go to jail, or you might get a notice to appear if it's a misdemeanor," Gage said. "It's still an arrest."

Gage pointed to a recent interrogatory – answers that the BHPD submitted under oath to questions from his legal team – as further evidence that the BHPD targeted Black people, especially on Rodeo Drive.

"There's no way you can justify these numbers," Gage said. "Numbers don't lie."

He contends that the unfair arrests of Black people were exacerbated by the formation of the Rodeo Drive Task Force following the murder of George Floyd and the subsequent protest movement.

Gage claimed that his team had obtained notes from an August 2020 citizen advisory committee where the members warned of a

"criminal element bleeding into the residential areas," which Gage said was false and coded racist language. The Rodeo Drive Task Force was formed days after that meeting.

According to Gage, over 90% of the people arrested by the task force were Black, and none were convicted.

"So, based on that, we're seeking \$500 million [in victim restitution] in our lawsuit," Gage said. The attorneys are also seeking an injunction against the city to "stop them from exhibiting this behavior again."

The lawsuit was filed on Aug. 30, 2021, on behalf of tourists Khalil White and Jasmine Williams, who were arrested for riding scooters on Rodeo Drive in September 2020.

According to the lawsuit, White and Williams were detained without cause, and the two charges against them, operating a scooter on the sidewalk and resisting arrest, were eventually dropped. Officers also threatened to use a Taser on



photo courtesy of Bradley C. Gage

Attorneys Bradley C. Gage, left, and Ben Crump, middle, are seeking financial restitution and an injunction against the Beverly Hills Police Department.

White multiple times, according to the lawsuit.

In a statement, the BHPD provided a different version of events. According to the BHPD, the two had been stopped earlier in the day and were warned that riding scooters on sidewalks was prohibited in the city, and the two were arrested

after committing the same violation later in the day and providing false information to police.

The next court hearing is scheduled for Sept. 26, and after choosing expert witnesses and conducting additional depositions, Gage expects the trial to begin sometime next year, he said.

Clinic response criticized in Beverly Hills

From page 1

Wilshire Blvd.

The lawsuit lists 10 causes of action against Douglas Emmett, including breach of contract, negligent interference with prospective economic relations and negligent misrepresentation.

building, Douglas Emmett rescinded the lease in June, copying city officials on the rescission letter, according to the lawsuit.

DuPont's lawsuit further alleges that city officials conspired to block the clinic's opening by delaying permits, pressuring Douglas Emmett

tions, stating it has a clear record of supporting women's rights.

But when Gay Abrams read about the lawsuit, she felt city officials had failed to uphold their promises.

"It didn't look like there were any issues until this group showed up to

Abrams began researching ways to protect the city against extremist influence.

She began writing letters to state officials, and reaching out to legal scholars and political organizations with which she's involved, seeking connections and resources.

A small group of residents have taken up the effort as well, though some are choosing to work "under the radar," concerned about blowback from extremists, she said.

"My goal is to find partners, and

City Council meeting, Abrams spoke more about the potential consequences of appearing to embolden extremists of any stripe.

"If our city succumbs to one group, who will come next to Beverly Hills? Will groups demand to remove books or change our history curriculum? Or maybe an anti-gun group will decide to protest our gun stores? What about our synagogues? Our LGBTQ community? Maybe a vegan group will protest our various steak houses? What